JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of minuting the errir to	outer oneer. Toda morner									
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS						
HELEN SWARTZ, Individually				HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON c/b/a HOMEWOOD SUITES LANCASTER						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Miami-Dade County				County of Residence	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant					
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF						
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number	or)	1 -	Attorneys (If Known)						
David S. Dessen, Desse Grove, PA 19090, 215.4										
Biscayne Blvd, N. Miami,										
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in C	Ine Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P. (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in and One Box fo			
□ 1 U.S. Government	≱ 3 Federal Question			P	FF DEF	1 . 56 1 305		PTF □ 4	DEF	
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citize	en of This State	1 0 1	Incorporated or Proof Business In T		LJ 4	4	
□ 2 U.S. Government	☐ 4 Diversity		Citizo	en of Another State	2 🗖 2	Incorporated and F	Principal Place	5	5	
Defendant	(Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)				of Business In A	Another State			
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☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability	Product Liability 367 Health Care/	6 9	0 Other	28 U	ROPERTY RIGHTS 400 State				
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	Pharmaceutical								
& Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act	Slander 330 Federal Employers'	Personal Injury Product Liability		☐ 820 Copyrights☐ 830 Patent			☐ 430 Banks a ☐ 450 Comme		g	
■ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability	368 Asbestos Persona	1		□ 835 Paten	t - Abbreviated	☐ 460 Deporta	tion		
Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	☐ 340 Marine ☐ 345 Marine Product	Injury Product Liability			■ 840 Trade	Drug Application mark	☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations			
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL PROPEI 370 Other Fraud		LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards	SOCIAL 861 HIA	SECURITY (1305ff)	☐ 480 Consum ☐ 490 Cable/S			
☐ 160 Stockholders` Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending		Act	862 Black	Lung (923)	☐ 850 Securiti	es/Commo	dities/	
 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 	Product Liability 360 Other Personal	380 Other Personal Property Damage		0 Labor/Management Relations	863 DIW	C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI	Exchan 890 Other St		ctions	
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VII. REQUESTED IN		IS A CLASS ACTION		ation for persons wit		es HECK YES only	if demanded in	complair	nt;	
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VIII. RELATED CASE										
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

HELEN SWARTZ, Individually,

Plaintiff,

V.

Case No.

HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON, db/a HOMEWOOD SUITES LANCASTER,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, HELEN SWARTZ, Individually, on her behalf and on behalf of all other mobility-impaired individuals similarly-situated, (sometimes referred to as "Plaintiff"), hereby sues the Defendant, HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON, db/a HOMEWOOD SUITES LANCASTER (sometimes referred to as "Defendant") for Injunctive Relief, and attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. ("ADA").

- 1. Plaintiff, HELEN SWARTZ, resides in Miami Beach, Florida, in the County of Miami-Dade.
- 2. Defendant's property, The Homewood Suites Lancaster Hotel, is located at 200 Granite Run Drive, Lancaster, PA, in the County of Lancaster.
- 3. Venue is properly located in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania because venue lies in the judicial district of the property situs. The Defendant's property is located in and does business within this judicial district.

- 4. Pursuant to 28 USC § 1331 and 28 USC § 1343, this Court has been given original jurisdiction over actions which arise from the Defendant's violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. See, also, 28 USC § 2201 and § 2202.
- 5. Plaintiff, HELEN SWARTZ is a Florida resident, is sui juris, has multiple sclerosis and relies on the use of an electric scooter to ambulate, as she is mobility impaired. She qualifies as a person with disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Helen Swartz was born and raised in New York City and moved to the Philadelphia area in 1978 to attend graduate school. After completion of her studies, she founded a business and resided in the area until 2011. She was active in the business community and has many long-standing relationships that she has maintained throughout the years. She also had two children during those years, through which she knew many people.

Her elder daughter and granddaughter live in the Lancaster area and she often meets them, so that they may enjoy cultural activities, dining and shopping. Ms. Swartz lived in the Lancaster area for many years and has many friends there

Helen Swartz visited the property which forms the basis of this lawsuit from April 24 through April 25, 2021, and has reservations to return to the property on October 14 through October 15, 2021, to celebrate her daughter's birthday by dining at a local restaurant, and also to avail herself of the goods and services offered to the public at the property, if the facilities are fully accessible and the barriers to access have been corrected. The Plaintiff has encountered architectural barriers at the subject property, which have impaired her use of the facilities and the amenities offered, and have endangered her safety at the facilities and her ability to access the facilities the property has to offer and use the restrooms.

- 6. The Plaintiff has encountered architectural barriers at the subject property, which are enumerated in paragraph 10. The barriers to access at the property have endangered her safety, and adversely affected her ability to use the facilities.
- 7. Defendant owns, leases, leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR 36.201(a) and 36.104. Defendant is responsible for complying with the obligations of the ADA. The place of public accommodation that the Defendant owns, operates, leases or leases to is known as The Homewood Suites Lancaster Hotel, and is located at 200 Granite Run Drive, Lancaster, PA 19103, in the County of Lancaster.
- 8. HELEN SWARTZ has a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendant's non-compliance with the ADA with respect to this property as described but not necessarily limited to the allegations in Paragraph 10 of this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that she will continue to be subjected to discrimination in violation of the ADA by the Defendant. HELEN SWARTZ desires to visit The Homewood Suites Lancaster Hotel not only to avail herself of the goods and services available at the property but to assure herself that this property is in compliance with the ADA so that she and others similarly-situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the property without fear of discrimination.
- 9. The Defendant has discriminated against the individual Plaintiff by denying her access to, and full and equal enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the hotel, as prohibited by 42 USC § 12182 et seq.
- 10. The Defendant has discriminated, and is continuing to discriminate, against the Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing to, <u>inter alia</u>, have accessible facilities by January 26,

1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A preliminary inspection of The Homewood Suites Lancaster Hotel has shown that violations exist. These violations which HELEN SWARTZ personally observed or encountered, and which were verified by an ADA expert, include, but are not limited to:

- a. The hotel does not provide the required amount of compliant accessible guest rooms, and the accessible rooms are not dispersed among the various classes of accommodations. This is in violation of section 224 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.304. This denies to Plaintiff the full and equal opportunity to stay at the subject hotel. 28 CFR §36.302(e)(1)...
- b. The accessible features of the facility are not maintained, creating barriers to access for the Plaintiff, as set forth herein, in violation of 28 CFR §36.211.
- c. In the accessible guestroom, #147, the hotel inserted a notice in the door that is out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of sections 308 & 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.302 & §36.304. This condition showed that the hotel has not trained their staff in how to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when the modifications are necessary to afford goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities,
- d. In the accessible guestroom, #147, a turning space is not provided in the kitchenette. This is in violation of section 806.2.5 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access to turn around in the kitchen once the plaintiff goes to access the refrigerator or the dishwasher.
- e. In the accessible guestroom, #147, the window controls are out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of sections 309 & 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access the window controls independently.
- f. In the accessible guestroom, #147, the operable controls for the window require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. This is in violation of sections 309.4 & 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access the window controls

independently.

- g. In the accessible guestroom, #147, the closet rod is out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 811 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to hang up her clothes independently.
- h. In the accessible guestroom, #147, items in the closet are out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 811 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access the iron, ironing board and pillows and blankets independently.
- i. In the accessible guestroom, #147, the operable part on the bathroom door requires tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. This is in violation of sections 404.2.7 and 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to lock the door independently.
- j. In the accessible guestroom, #147, a forward or parallel reach is not provided to access the HVAC. This is in violation of sections 305 and 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access the HVAC independently.
- k. In the accessible guestroom, #147, a turning space is not provided to access the standing lamp. This is in violation of section 806.2.6 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access the lamp independently.
- 1. In the accessible guestroom, #147, the shower seat extends too far from the compartment entry. This is in violation of section 806.2.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the plaintiff to access the folding seat.
- m. In guestroom #147, which hotel deemed an accessible guestroom, the shower spray unit in the roll-in shower does not have an on/off control with a non-positive shut-off. This is in violation of section 806.2.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the plaintiff to access the facility.

- n. In guestroom #147, which hotel deemed an accessible guestroom, the shower spray unit in the roll-in shower is out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 806.2.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff to access the facility.
- o. In guestroom #147, which hotel deemed an accessible guestroom, the mirror above the lavatory is out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 806.2.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff to access the facility.
- p. In the hotel toilet compartments, the mirrors are out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 603.3 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the Plaintiff to access the facility.
- q. In the hotel toilet compartments, the pipes underneath the lavatories are exposed. This is in violation of section 606.5 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the Plaintiff to access the facility.
- r. In the hotel toilet compartments, objects are spaced too close to the rear grab bar. This is in violation of section 609.3 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the Plaintiff to access the facility.
- s. Accessible seating at the tables and bar inside and outside the hotel are not provided to a person using a wheelchair. This is in violation of sections 226 and 902 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. This condition denied the Plaintiff access to any of the tables and bar around the hotel; 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202, §36.304.
- t. The pool lift is not properly located. This is in violation of section 1009.2.1 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. This condition denied the Plaintiff access to use the lift; 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202, §36.304.
- u. The pool lift is not capable of unassisted operation from both the deck and water levels. This is in violation of section 1009.2.7 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. This condition denied the Plaintiff access to use the lift; 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202, §36.304.

- v. The hotel discriminated against the plaintiff for not having an independent pool lift available for use, thereby denying the plaintiff the ability to use of the pool, which is available to able individuals. 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202, §36.302 & §36.304.
- 11. All of the foregoing cited violations are violations of both the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines (ADAAG) and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, as adopted by the Department of Justice.
- 12. The discriminatory violations described in Paragraph 10 are not an exclusive list of the Defendant's ADA violations. Plaintiff requires the inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation in order to photograph and measure all of the discriminatory acts violating the ADA and all of the barriers to access. The individual Plaintiff, and all other individuals similarly-situated, have been denied access to, and have been denied the benefits of services, programs and activities of the Defendant's facilities, and have otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by the Defendant because of the Defendant's ADA violations, as set forth above. The individual Plaintiff, and all others similarly-situated will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy this discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff requires an inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 13. Defendant have discriminated against the individual Plaintiff by denying her access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of its place of public accommodation or commercial facility in violation of 42 USC § 12181 *et seq.* and 28 CFR. 36.302 *et seq.* Furthermore, the Defendant continue to discriminate against the Plaintiff, and all those similarly-situated by failing to make reasonable

modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- 14. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law and is suffering irreparable harm. Considering the balance of hardships between the Plaintiff and Defendant, a remedy in equity is warranted. Furthermore, the public interest would not be disserved by a permanent injunction. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel and is entitled to recover attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses from the Defendant pursuant to 42 USC § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.
- 15. Defendant is required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled, when such removal is readily achievable for its place of public accommodation that has existed prior to January 26, 1992, 28 CFR 36.304(a); in the alternative, if there has been an alteration to Defendant's place of public accommodation since January 26, 1992, then the Defendant is required to ensure to the maximum extent feasible, that the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use walkers and wheelchairs, 28 CFR 36.402; and finally, if the Defendant's facility is one which was designed and constructed for first occupancy subsequent to January 26, 1993, as defined in 28 CFR 36.401, then the Defendant's facility must be readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA.
- 16. Notice to Defendant is not required as a result of the Defendant's failure to cure the violations by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendant have 10 or fewer

employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). All other conditions precedent have been met by Plaintiff or waived by the Defendant.

17. Pursuant to 42 USC § 12188, this Court is provided with authority to grant Plaintiff Injunctive Relief, including an order to require the Defendant to alter the The Homewood Suites Lancaster Hotel to make those facilities readily accessible and useable to the Plaintiff and all other persons with disabilities as defined by the ADA; or by closing the facility until such time as the Defendant cure its violations of the ADA. The Order shall further require the Defendant to maintain the required assessable features on an ongoing basis.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

- a. The Court issue a Declaratory Judgment that determines that the Defendant at the commencement of the subject lawsuit are in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq.
- b. Injunctive relief against the Defendant including an order to make all readily achievable alterations to the facility; or to make such facility readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA; and to require the Defendant to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such steps that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- An award of attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42 c. USC § 12205.
- d. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and/or is allowable under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dated: May ______, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Dessen, Esq. (I.D. 17627)

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Willow Grove, PA 19090

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ddessen@dms-lawyer.com

and

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Fuller, Fuller & Associates, P.A.

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North Miami, FL 33181 Telephone: 305.891.5199

305.893.9505 Facsimile:

lfuller@fuller.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff Helen Swartz

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: c/o Lawrence A. Fuller, 12000 Biscayne Blvd., N. Miami, FL 33181									
Address of Defendant: 12 Swedesford Road, Malvern, PA 19355									
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Homewood Suites, 200 Granite Run Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601									
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:									
Case Number: Judge: Date Terminated:									
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions:									
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?									
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit yes No V									
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?									
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No Verification of the same individual?									
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above. DATE: MKY 19, Zozl Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)									
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)									
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only) A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:									
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. FELA 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Patent 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Labor-Management Relations 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 7. Products Liability 7. Products Liability 7. Asbestos 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 9. All other Personal Security Review Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify): 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. Airplane Personal Injury 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury 7. Products Liability 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify): 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contracts 1. Insur									
A. Federal Question Cases: Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:									
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Patent 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 7. Products Liability - Asbestos 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 9. Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify):									

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

en.	イソ (9, 702) David S. Dessen Plaintiff	
(f)	Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.	(X)
	Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are conly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. everse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)	()
(d) exposi	Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from ure to asbestos.	()
(c)	Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.	2. ()
(b) and H	Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health uman Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.	()
(a)	Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.	()
SELE	CT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:	
plainti filing revers said d serve	cordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the tithe complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth of the side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regardlesignation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of count on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specials to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.	me of on the arding rt and
HOMI	v. CIVIL ACTION NO. EWOOD SUITES BY HILTON :	
HELE	N SWARTZ, Individually,	

715-658-0747 215-564-2879

FAX Number

215-658-1400 **Telephone** ddessen@dms-lawyer.com

E-Mail Address